

Oral Interview Index

Sacramento Ethnic Communities Survey

Group: PORTUGUESE

Subject: Joseph A. Andrade

Interviewer: Joseph D'Alessandro

- :00 Introduction
- :55 Birth on Brava Island, Cape Verde on April 29, 1915. Comes to the United States on scooner first to New Bedford, Mass. then came to Alameda, California
- 1:38 Father's early employment in California and coming to Sacramento
- 2:20 Father employed at Southern Pacific. Brief capsule of early life: schools, second marriage.
- 4:00 Parents names, Father - Antonio Andrade, Mother - Maria Dos Reis
- 4:25 Discusses reasons for Cape Verdean immigration to the United States, to New England and to California
- 5:35 Description of Cape Verde Islands, Brava
- 7:45 Talks about other ethnic groups on the islands, including a governor who was Chinese (from Macao) and the Jews
- 9:01 Dog barking
- 9:44 Discusses religion on the islands, mostly Catholic but there are some others
- 10:10 Discusses the language spoken in the islands, Portuguese at schools and officially. Crioulo at home and on the streets.
- 11:54 Talks about the Language and cultural differences between the various islands
- 13:20 Discusses how Cape Verdeans in Sacramento are mostly from the islands of Brava and Fogo
- 14:23 Talks about him first coming to the United States and going to New Bedford and staying with relatives
- 15:05 Discusses how the family paid a \$ 40.00 passage to come to the United States
- 15:42 Family went to Alameda for about 8 months before coming to Sacramento
- 17:00 Most Cape Verdeans in California settled in Sacramento especially in the old "Arizona" neighborhood around 4th Street.
- 18:40 Discusses Cape Verdean employment in Sacramento; farms, Southern Pacific, River Lines.
- 20:07 Discusses how Cape Verdean population is estimated at around 3,000 in the Sacramento area.
- 20:40 Discusses Cape Verdean relations with other Portuguese groups. They were not always the best. There were some "mix ups" with the younger ones. The problems, however, were not as bad as race problems today.

Oral Interview Index (cont.)

PORTUGUESE

Joseph A. Andrade

- 23:10 Discusses how the Cape Verdeans didn't intermingle socially with the other Portuguese groups.
- 24:45 Lack of any true Cape Verdean organizations in Sacramento or in the State as a whole
- 25:20 Phone rings and dog barks
- 26:00 That Cape Verdeans, when they went to church, would go to St. Elizabeth's but they didn't participate in the Holy Spirit Festas because they were not really wanted
- 26:50 Discusses the Cape Verdean Festa of St. John the Baptist in Sacramento. Held at people's homes, A.M. Mass at St. Elizabeth's afternoon of eating and socializing, would make large mast and sail full of "goodies" for the children that would be opened. Evening Mass and more food.

SIDE 2

- :00 Intro to second part
- :30 Discusses Cape Verdean employment. How established immigrants would help to find jobs for the newly arriving immigrants; principally at Southern Pacific, River Lines, hotel work, brickyards.
- 4:15 More people from the island of Brava in Sacramento than from Fogo and the relations, especially at parties and dances, were not always the best
- 6:50 Sacramento having more Cape Verdeans than the Bay Area. Cape Verdeans in Sacramento mostly from Brava and in the Bay Area mostly from Sao Nicolau
- 8:15 The Cape Verdean community in Sacramento traditionally lived in the Southside Park area but are dispersed today. They get together today for baptisms, weddings, dances, etc.
- 9:17 Sacramento Cape Verdean Club now somewhat inactive. There is an organization in Los Angeles.
- 10:40 The younger generation is not so interested in their culture.
- 11:25 Discusses Cape Verdean music, "Mornas", love songs similar to classic Portuguese "Fados". Cape Verdean music a combination of influences from Portugal, Brazil and Africa.
- 13:30 Recent immigrants now going to New England instead of California where the community is bigger and employment opportunities are better.
- 15:10 75 - 100 people would attend the Festival of St. John the Baptist.
- 18:09 Discusses other Cape Verdean festival in Sacramento, St. Anthony. Louise Lopes brought it from the East Coast, similar to St. John's, held in June.
- 20:15 Discusses language maintenance today. Cape Verdean language school organized in Sacramento in the 1970's held at St. Joseph's Academy until school torn down.

Oral Interview Index (cont.)

PORTUGUESE

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- 24:45 Today there are non stop flights from the United States to Cape Verde which helps maintain connection. However there are fewer people going back to the islands now because most of the families have come here now. Many in Cape Verde go to Africa for work and then return to the islands.
- 28:07 Cape Verdeans send money back to relatives on the islands that help bolster the economy. The president of Cape Verde recently came to the United States to visit the Cape Verdean communities in New England.